## REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending. Claims 21-25 have been withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to non-elected inventions. No claims have been amended, canceled, or added in this reply. Claims 1-25 therefore will be pending upon the filing of this reply.

Claims 2-4, 6, 7, 11-14, and 17 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's statement that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1, 5, 8-10, 15, 16, and 18-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over applicant's admitted prior art (AAPA) in view of U.S. patent no. 4,741,947 (Pataki). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 of the present application recites melting and curing the adhesive by energizing the electrical conductor so that a current greater than a rated current of the transformer winding flows through the electrical conductor. The Examiner contends that melting and curing the adhesive in this manner would have been an obvious matter of design choice because "applicant has not disclosed that the melting and curing [of] an adhesive as disclosed [in claim 1] is a critical feature and it appears that the invention would perform equally well with the teaching by heat convection oven as disclosed by the prior art reference." Office action at pg. 3, lines 6-12.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has not applied the correct standard in assessing the non-obviousness of claim 1. To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, it must be shown that there is some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or combine the teachings. Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) at § 2143. The MPEP does not require an applicant to identify a claim limitation as a "critical feature" to distinguish the limitation over the prior art.

Moreover, Applicants respectfully note that the Examiner has not identified any suggestion or motivation to modify the prior art to arrive at the limitation melting and curing the adhesive by energizing the electrical conductor so that a current greater than a rated current of the transformer winding flows through the electrical conductor. Applicants

respectfully submit that the Examiner's statement that "the invention would perform equally well with the teaching by heat convection oven as disclosed by the prior art reference" is not a suggestion or motivation to modify the prior art. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established for claim 1.

Applicants further submit that neither AAPA nor Pataki teach or suggest melting and curing the adhesive by energizing the electrical conductor so that a current greater than a rated current of the transformer winding flows through the electrical conductor, as recited in claim 1 of the present application. Both AAPA and Pataki disclose melting and curing adhesive on a winding by placing the entire winding in a hot-air convection oven. *See* paragraph [0004] of the original application, and Pataki spec. at col. 7, lines 17-20. Melting and curing the adhesive in accordance with the method of claim 1 of the present application, by contrast, obviates the need to place the winding in a hot-air convention oven.

Obviating the need to place the winding in a hot-air convention oven, it is believed, can reduce the overall amount of time needed to manufacture the winding. Moreover, it is believed that the adhesive can be melted and cured more uniformly, in less time, and with less energy using the method of claim 1 in lieu of a hot-air convection oven. *See* paragraphs [0044] – [0047] of the original application.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 (and claims 2-20, which depend therefrom) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested in view of the above remarks.

A notice of allowability is respectfully requested.

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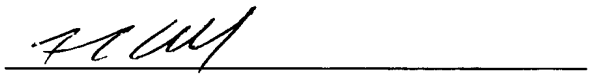

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